

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION**

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
v.)	Case No. 17-CV-6260
)	Judge Robert M. Dow,
CITY OF CHICAGO,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

SUPPLEMENT TO COMMENTS OF THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
CHICAGO LODGE NO. 7 PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE

The Fraternal Order of Police Chicago Lodge No. 7 submits the attached signed statement of John Catanzara in connection with comments submitted on school assigned officers in Doc. 670 filed on November 27, 2018.

/s/Joel A. D'Alba
Joel A. D'Alba

Joel A. D'Alba
Asher, Gittler & D'Alba, Ltd.
200 West Jackson, Suite 720
Chicago, Illinois 60606
jad@ulaw.com
(312) 263-1500

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	Case No. 17-CV-6260
v.)	Judge Robert M. Dow, Jr.
)	
CITY OF CHICAGO,)	
Defendant.)	

STATEMENT OF POLICE OFFICER JOHN CATANZARA

I am John Catanzara, I submit this statement in support of the position of Fraternal Order of Police Chicago Lodge No. 7 to oppose attempts to remove school resource officers (SRO's) from duty assignments in the Chicago public schools.

I am a veteran Chicago Police Officer, and I have worked on this job for 24 years.

From approximately 2013 to 2017, I was assigned to be a school police officer at Hubbard High School located at 6200 South Hamlin. The position is also titled School Resource Officer.

In the course of my duties in the school I have been responsible for maintaining order and security and keeping the peace within the school. I have seen, and I and other police officers assigned to other schools have confiscated a number of weapons in schools. Not all schools have metal detectors. I have observed shootings on the Hubbard property and within a block of the school after the dismissal time. I have observed brawls between students after school, and I am aware of students being raped within the school.

To break up brawls on or around the school property, police officers have been required to arrest the persons involved, and it has been necessary to handcuff them and to attach those handcuff to chain-link fences so that officers could continue to break-up the fights and the brawls.

I have confiscated guns and knives in the schools.

The shootings that have occurred around the schools or near the school playgrounds are generally gang related in which one gang is retaliating for an attack upon another, and in some cases, these retaliation attacks could last for as long as a week.

A way to enable police officers to perform better services within the schools would be to increase the amount of training for dealing with school students who are troubled, gang members or who are generally causing problems.

I have investigated sexual misconduct in the school. Shortly after I was first assigned to Hubbard High School in December 2013, I was aware of an allegation of the rape of a female student in a bathroom by a senior boy. I am aware of a lot of sexual activity that occurs in the school, both in the hallways after school and during school hours.

In March 2014, I was aware and participated in the investigation of an adult security guard who allegedly engaging in sexual abuse with students. I prepared a police report for a female student who complained. The adult security guard was eventually convicted of sexual misconduct.

In my role as a police officer at Hubbard, I attempted to develop trusting relationships with students, faculty, and the administrators. By doing that I was able to obtain information that is useful to track persons within the school who are likely to engage in criminal activity. Such relationships also enable me as a police officer to successfully participate in lockdown drills with the staff and students, which are necessary to assure protection against mass shooters that may enter the schools who are likely to engage in criminal conduct.

My experience has been that in a school a police officer has to learn who are the troubled students and attempt to mentor them, and I have spent time with kids in the school by speaking to them and developing relationships in order to be their mentor. One way in which I attempted to do this was to spend personal funds and then my own time to develop a small garden and pond in a central atrium at Hubbard. The pool was approximately 30 feet by 100 feet, and the pond and garden area became a place for seniors to eat lunch.

When I arrived at Hubbard, the pond was very dated, and I and a special education teacher wanted to improve it. I did that with my volunteer time and talent. I paid approximately \$1,500 for koi fish to be placed in the pool, and I designed the pool and the garden. I spent about \$10,000 of personal funds on this project. . It was approximately four feet deep and sufficient for the koi to swim.

The purpose of this project was to give the students something nice to reflect upon during the day. A plaque was prepared to dedicate this pool to Brian Strauss, a Chicago police officer killed in the line of duty in 2001. For the time I was at the school, this pond was a successful meeting place and a place where I could talk to the students and attempt to be their mentor.

I am aware that the incidents of drug dealing, sexual activity and disrespect for teachers, which are regarded as level five to six matters in CPS have increased by a factor of three fold between September 2016 and May 2017 at the school. This threefold increase represented the greatest increase in any year of the prior ten years at the school. In my opinion, it was important for me to be proactive, to intervene in order to mitigate the amount of violence and misconduct that has occurred.

In my opinion, security in schools is a major issue and should not be compromised by removing officers from schools.

11/28/2018

John Catanzara

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Catanzara", followed by a large, stylized flourish or checkmark-like stroke.

Chicago Police Officer